

Modes of Writing Scoring Guide

	Descriptive	Narrative	Imaginative	Expository	Persuasive
Level 5	<p>Uses precise language to create a detailed image of the topic</p> <p>Is selective in choosing the details that enhance the image</p> <p>Keeps the topic sharply in focus</p> <p>Notifies all the important details that are necessary to put the reader in the picture</p>	<p>There is a purposeful sequence of events that moves the story forward</p> <p>The events of the story foreshadow one another, and create depth to the plot</p> <p>There is a clear conflict</p> <p>Characters are vivid and grow through the story</p>	<p>The writing is insightful and provocative, with an underlying core of the truth</p> <p>The writing draws the reader into a journey of discovery</p> <p>The writer emerges as an individual and unique thinker</p> <p>The writing is spirited and lively, pulsating with energy</p>	<p>The information presented is unusual and accurate, and focused on the thesis</p> <p>There is a wealth of relevant detail anticipating reader's questions</p> <p>The information provided goes beyond the obvious and gives a different perspective</p> <p>There is a logical, connected flow of ideas that lead to a conclusion</p>	<p>The arguments presented are well developed and convincing</p> <p>Evidence supporting the arguments is compelling, credible and well documented</p> <p>The writer's position is clear and thoughtful</p> <p>The conclusions flow naturally from the evidence provided</p>
Level 3	<p>Gives only a brief overview of the topic</p> <p>Broad details create a vague picture</p> <p>The topic is described using generalizations and always at a distance</p> <p>The picture is sketchy, without sufficient detail to bring it into focus</p>	<p>The sequence of events is familiar or formulaic</p> <p>The events are predictable and shallow</p> <p>The link to conflict or turning point is vague</p> <p>Characters are sketched but lack depth</p>	<p>The writing has some flashes of insight, but generally stays on familiar ground</p> <p>The writer is tentative in approaching the unknown or unusual</p> <p>The writer's ideas are ordinary, or still in the formative stage</p> <p>The writing is playful or whimsical, but lacks vibrancy and power</p>	<p>The thesis is broad, with information that is solid and reliable, but ordinary</p> <p>Details lack subtlety and only answer basic questions</p> <p>The information is clear, but mundane or simplistic</p> <p>There is little development of a central idea or conclusion</p>	<p>There are flaws in some of the arguments</p> <p>The evidence overlooks key points and provides limited support</p> <p>The writer holds one position, but supports it with a mix of rational and muddled thinking</p> <p>Conclusions are based on a mixture of fact and opinion, and not always supported by the evidence</p>
Level 1	<p>The topic is difficult to define or visualize</p> <p>Details may not relate to or help define the topic</p> <p>Description of the topic, if present, is distracting or inaccurate</p> <p>The picture is colorless and provides more questions than answers</p>	<p>The sequence of events meanders with no purpose or direction</p> <p>Events have little or no relevance to the story</p> <p>There is no conflict or recognizable turning point</p> <p>Characters have no definition or "life"</p>	<p>The writing is obvious and predictable</p> <p>The writer uses clichés, and avoids stretching or searching</p> <p>The ideas are lethargic, with little that is new or unique</p> <p>The writing is dispirited, and numbs the reader's curiosity</p>	<p>Information presented is incomplete and has little relevance to the thesis</p> <p>Details are trivial and unsupported</p> <p>Information is repetitious and provides no insight into the topic</p> <p>The ideas are not connected and have no discernable direction or conclusion</p>	<p>The arguments are a series of unsupported statements or opinions</p> <p>Any evidence is weak and questionable, and easy to refute</p> <p>The writer's position is unjustified, unclear, or shifting</p> <p>Conclusions appeal to emotions, or require a leap of faith</p>

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